

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

10/516591

PCT/JP2003/007075



Applicant's or agent's file reference RO2003PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/JP2003/007075	International filing date (day/month/year) 04 June 2003 (04.06.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 04 June 2002 (04.06.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC F24F 7/06, H01L 21/02		
Applicant RORZE CORPORATION		

- This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
- This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.

- This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 24 September 2003 (24.09.2003)	Date of completion of this report 08 March 2004 (08.03.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

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I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

☒ the international application as originally filed

☐ the description:

pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

☐ the claims:

pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, as amended (together with any statement under Article 19
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

☐ the drawings:

pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

☐ the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item. These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).

☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).

☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages _____

☐ the claims, Nos. _____

☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rule 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-11	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	4, 5	YES
	Claims	1-3, 6-11	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-11	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Document 1: JP 2001-182978 A (Hitachi Plant Engineering & Construction Co., Ltd. & Hitachi, Ltd.), 6 July 2001 (Family: none)

Document 2: JP 2000-357641 A (Hitachi Plant Engineering & Construction Co., Ltd. & Hitachi, Ltd.), 26 December 2000 (Family: none)

Document 3: JP 9-298136 A (Nissin Electric Co., Ltd.), 18 November 1997 (Family: none)

Explanation

Document 1 sets forth a cleanroom facility, wherein a fan filter unit (11) is installed on the ceiling surface (10a), a grating (12) having a large number of through-holes formed thereupon is installed on the floor surface, and a transfer device (18) is provided at an intermediate position between the ceiling surface and the floor surface. This "transfer device (18)" corresponds to the "transfer robot" of this international application, and referring to the drawings of document 1, the transfer device (18) is understood to be supported by a floor which is capable of letting air pass through. Therefore, comparing the invention set forth in claim 1 with this invention, the two differ in that a filter which removes

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at least 99.99% of particles with a size of 0.1 μ m or more is used, but this feature is merely a design feature which a person skilled in the art could accomplish as necessary. Document 2 sets forth a similar invention to that set forth in document 1.

Document 3 contains the wording "the end station (42), as previously mentioned, is not completely airtight, therefore unpleasant odors dispersed within this end station (42) leak from the gaps existing in the door (48) portion and sidewall portion of the end station (42) into the work environment of the worker (52), as demonstrated by the arrow E-G in fig. 5, for example" (paragraph 14), therefore it would be easy for a person skilled in the art to conceive of the feature specified in claims 2 and 3 in the light of document 3.

The numerical values for the open area ratio of the floor, pressure, blowing speed of clean air and the like are merely features which could be selected as necessary by a person skilled in the art.